12. *Labour Legislation.* In your own words, Sir, "if industrialisation is to achieve its purpose, the fullest possible co-operation and co-ordination between labour and capital are necessary. The Government are aware of this and therefore it is that thay have introduced the Travancore Trade Boards Bill and the Industrial Statistics Bill along with other labour legislation intended to facilitate the harmonious working of labour and capital". To implement the provisions of these laws and to secure the co-operation of employers in promotiug the welfare of the workers, a Labour Department has been formed. On the advice of this Department and falling in line with the decisions of the conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories convened by the Government of India, full-time officers of both sexes are proposed to be appointed for safeguarding the health of labourers in Factories.

13. *Uplift of Backward Communities.* The amelioration of the condition of the backward communities has ever been engaging the serious attention of Government. An intensive programme is proposed to be planned out for this purpose as a part of the Post-War-Reconstruction Scheme on the basis of a ten-year programme of Rs 3 lakhs a year. A committee consisting of some of the Departmental Heads and representatives of the Chief Organisations of backward communities and other organisations engaged in ameliorative work with the Head of Administration as the President has been constituted for advising Government in the working of the Scheme. It is Government's hope and intention that at the end of the ten years proposed for working out the scheme in full, there shall be no communities which need be styled or regarded as backward.

DEBT POSITION.

14. A statement of assets and liabilities is furnished on pages 16 and 17 of the budget estimates. It will be seen therefrom that the liabilities at the close of 1122 including the balances at the credit of the General Reserve Fund, Revenue Reserve Fund, Post-War-Reconstruction Fund etc., which are not repayable at call aggregate Rs 24·06 crores. Against this liability the total assets including the outlay on productive schemes which are real assets, though accounted for under capital expenditure not charged to revenue, amount to Rs 24·61 crores, which is Rs 55 lakhs in excess of the liabilities. It may be mentioned here that these assets do not include the outlay on the Kodayar Project and on non-productive capital schemes. If these are also taken into account, the total assets would exceed the liabilities by more than Rs 3 crores. Our debt position may therefore be considered as very satisfactory.

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[Mr. S. Narayana Aiyar]

WAYS AND MEANS.

15. The final accounts of 1120 resulted in an opening cash balance of Rs 497 lakhs for the current year with short-term deposits in Banks to the extent of Rs 40 lakhs. The transactions of the current year under Revenue, Capital, and Debt Heads are expectd to result in a net withdrawal of Rs 181·33 lakhs due to large investments in gilt-edged Securities and short-term deposits in Banks. The year is therefore expected to close with a cash balance of Rs 316·13 lakhs. The result of the several transactions during the next year is estimated to be a net receipt of Rs 102·97 lakhs including an investment of Rs 50 lakhs in short-term deposits in Banks. The year 1122 is thus expected to close with a cash balance of Rs 419 lakhs. Though this balance is far in excess of the amount required to carry on the day to day transactions of Government, this level has to be maintained to meet the Capital and Post-War-Reconstruction Schemes and the food purchase programme during the next year. We will thus have at the end of the next year a cash balance of Rs 419 lakhs short-term deposits in Banks to the extent of Rs 400·98 lakhs, besides other safe and fluid investments of more than Rs 460·45 lakhs. The cash position may therefore be considered to be as strong as ever and so far as one can foresee there will be no necessity to raise loans from the public in the near future.

WAR-TIME FINANCE—A REVIEW.

16. As the budget that is presented to the House to-day is the first post-war budget, a general review of the finances of the State during the period of the war may not be inappropriate to the occasion. Though hostilities were declared towards the close of 1114, it was not until Japan entered into the field that our finances were affected by the war conditions. During 1115, the first year of the war, our revenues stood at Rs. 267·75 lakhs and the expenditure at Rs. 268·52 lakhs, resulting in a small deficit of Rs. ·57 of a lakh. The year 1116 ended in a surplus of Rs. 6·63 lakhs as the result of a revenue receipt of Rs. 276 79 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 270·16 lakhs. The revenue for the succeeding year crossed the three crores limit and mounted up to Rs. 314·52 lakhs against an expenditure of 276·19 lakhs, leaving a revenue surplus of Rs. 38·33 lakhs. During 1118, the revenue went up still higher and stood at Rs. 398·08 lakhs and the expenditure at Rs. 294·88 lakhs, the resultant surplus having been Rs. 103·20

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